



**omprakash**

# **2021 Annual Letter: Keep Walking**

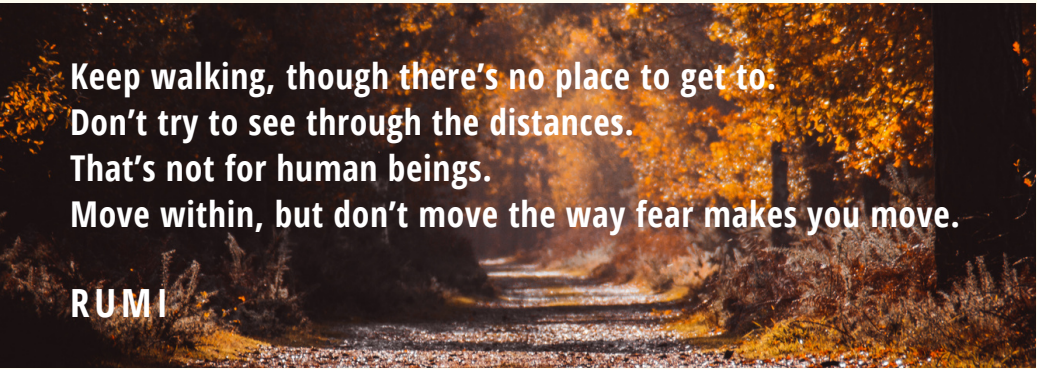
**omprakash facilitates  
relationships, dialogue &  
learning between social  
change agents around  
the world**



# Dear friends and supporters,

In [last year's Annual Letter](#), we reflected on Rilke's invitation to "let this darkness be a bell tower," and to embody the bell that rings and strengthens as it moves "back and forth into the change."

This year, as the acute crises of 2020 have dissolved into a broader backdrop of political and environmental upheaval, we draw inspiration from Rumi and his call to just keep going: to recommit ourselves again and again to the road we make by walking; to move within, first and foremost; and to continue deepening our work in the here and now without fearing what we cannot know or control.



Keep walking, though there's no place to get to.  
Don't try to see through the distances.  
That's not for human beings.  
Move within, but don't move the way fear makes you move.

RUMI

The disruptions of 2020 reminded us that the core of our work is about building relationships, raising critical consciousness, and fostering dialogue across differences — and that this work is not only possible in the midst of global lockdowns and limited face-to-face collaboration, but all the more vital. In 2021, we've continued to live this truth with conviction and vigor, striving to expand the ways we support our global network of social impact Partner organizations and facilitate transformative praxis for diverse student audiences through our EdGE online learning and mentorship programs.

Over the past year, Omprakash Partners have raised over seven million dollars through our platform, and have successfully recruited over two hundred interns to support their work (mostly online, but gradually returning to in-person). Our Partner network now includes over 220 organizations across 53 countries, and in 2021 we added new Partners that work in countries including Afghanistan, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Palestine, and the United States. We continue to offer additional support to a subset of these Partners through our Partner Development Grant program, and we foster community and collaboration across the network through live and asynchronous programming that includes webinars, online classrooms, research projects, and participatory theater sessions. In 2021 we also created our [Partner Advisory Board](#), a group of seven Partner representatives hailing from diverse geographic and thematic areas, whose efforts and insights help us be more responsive to the needs and visions of our Partners around the world.

Meanwhile, our portfolio of EdGE programs has grown in exciting new directions to impact more students across a wider spectrum of universities, nonprofits, and thematic areas. When we launched EdGE nearly a

# 2021

Milestones at a glance:

## 225%

increase in funds raised by Partners via Omprakash since 2019

## \$7.8 million

distributed to Partners

## 2,168

EdGE Students

decade ago, our primary focus was encouraging critical reflection and transformative learning amongst students who were preparing to volunteer or intern abroad. In the years since, and especially in the past two years, we have continued this work while also embracing opportunities to expand its scope and depth, bringing our core technology and pedagogy to a range of new program models that support local civic engagement, community-based research, and sustained peer-to-peer dialogue about the themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Many of these new programs do not involve travel or volunteering per se, but they revolve around the same fundamental questions that have always underpinned our work: questions about power, privilege, inequality, identity, and the ongoing struggle for mutual liberation. Across these new programs and all of our work, we confront suffering, injustice, and complexity through a praxis grounded in relationships, storytelling, and love.

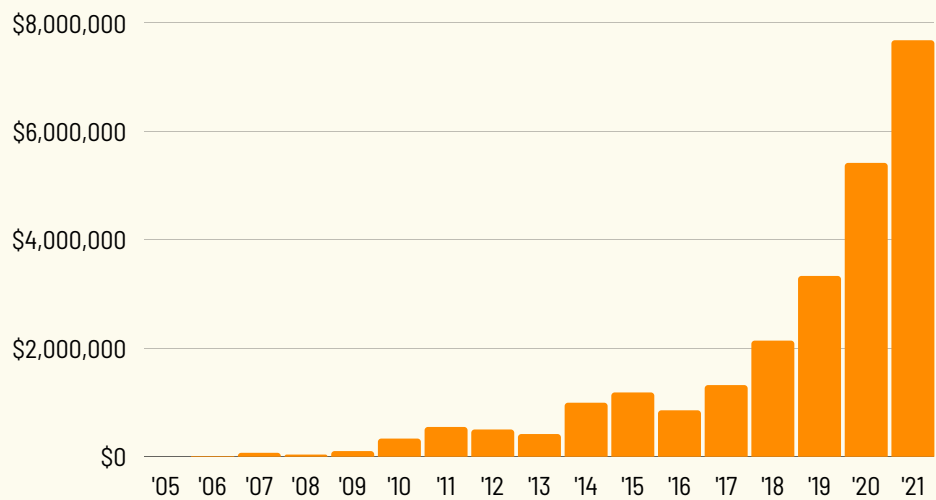
We are proud and grateful to report that 2021 will be the second year in which we have managed to fund our core operations entirely through earned revenue, which means that all donations to Omprakash can go directly towards scholarships, grants, and other free programming for our students and Partners. We continue, as always, to operate remotely, and our core team now includes nine people based in Ecuador, India, Tanzania, and the United States. Our dozens of EdGE Mentors enrich our work with their own experience and expertise from an even wider range of geographic and thematic backgrounds.

As we approach the stillness of winter solstice and heed the call to “move within,” we recommit ourselves to a vision of Omprakash as a space for reflection, dialogue, and collaboration across differences; a refuge of strength and creativity in the face of political and environmental upheaval, and a catalyst for individual and collective transformation. Thank you for joining us on this ongoing journey.



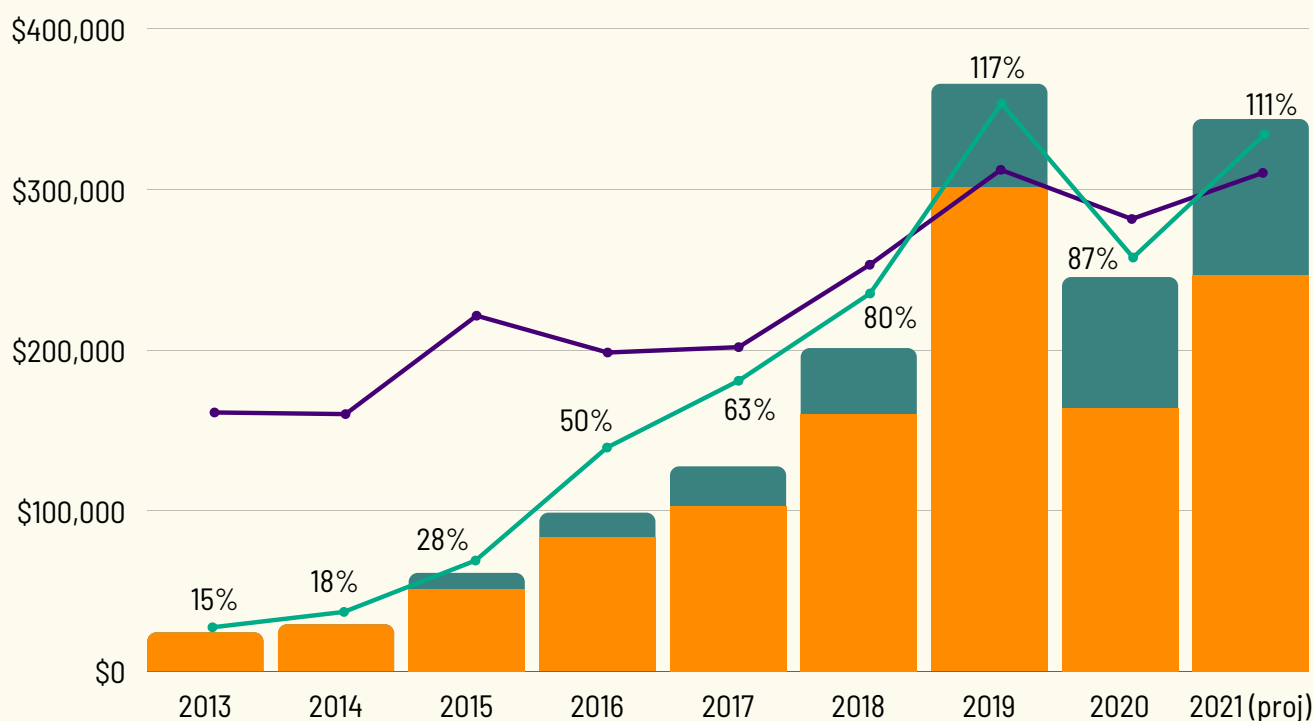
**With respect & appreciation,  
The Omprakash Team**

If you wish to support our work with a financial contribution, please do so at [omprakash.org/donate](https://omprakash.org/donate).



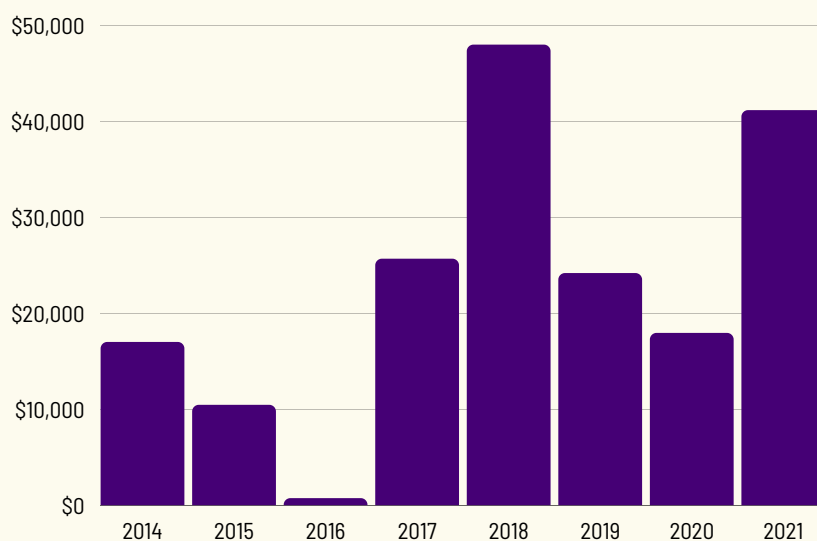
**Partner  
Fundraising  
via Omprakash  
2005-2021**

# Earned Revenue as % of Core Expenditure



The above graph shows the steady growth of our earned revenue in absolute terms and as a percentage of core expenditure. As our earned revenue covers an increasing share of our core operating expenses (e.g. payroll and admin costs), we are able to channel all donations (and any other surplus revenue) towards programs that directly benefit our Partners and students, including our EdGE Scholarships, Travel Grants, Partner Conferences, Partner Development Grants, and Web Access Support Grants. The graph on the right demonstrates our reinvestment in these programs in 2021 — a trend we hope to continue in the future. Please visit [www.omprakash.org/donate](http://www.omprakash.org/donate) if you would like to make a contribution towards these programs.

## Scholarships, Grants & Special Programs 2014-2021





# Reflections from our Partner Advisory Board Members



**VALERIA GRACIA**  
Voluntario Global,  
Argentina

*All the Omprakash partners have daily challenges and urgent needs in their own territories, in different parts of the world. I decided to join the Partner Advisory Board to improve the collaboration networks that allow us all to think and build long term alternatives. Omprakash supports us to create volunteer programs, provides training, gives us the possibility to make our work visible and reflect on various issues. I believe that the challenge for 2022 is that all these tools are applied by all partners to improve their strategies and actions in the short, mid and long term.*

*Challenging social norms and existing paradigms has never been an easy task, not even with the impact-driven, highly vetted Omprakash Partners all over the globe. I have always longed for a platform where social change makers can come together, share ideas and resources to effectively bring about change in their communities and world, reasons why I decided to become a Partner Advisory Board member. I am very hopeful that the coming years will see Omprakash partner organizations building more synergy to combat global inequalities and effecting social change.*



**AKO PETER AGBOR**  
Meg Wah,  
Cameroon



**PAUL KITHIMA**  
Bondeko Refugee  
Livelihoods Centre,  
Uganda

*As Omprakash said, I believe that social change begins with simple human relationships. So, for me as a PAB member I'd like to promote collaboration between members and between organizations in my region. In 2022, I'd like to see access to the Omprakash platform becoming an easy experience for both students and humanitarians in East Africa and the South African region.*

*I am humbled to be part of Omprakash's Partner Advisory Board. Working with such talented and wonderful people whose unison focus is development of communities is truly inspiring. Everytime we e-meet, there is such immense scope to learn and reflect. And the best aspect of the PAB is the space and opportunity it provides to its members to express themselves, work in individual independence and have a co-learning environment. May the new year usher opportunities for new partnership.*



**MILI ROY**  
Prayasam,  
India



# EdGE Student Testimonials

*I honestly have to say this has been a journey and a life-changing experience. This class has challenged my morals, beliefs, intelligence, and overall outlook on life. [...] This class has provided me with a powerful drive and motivation I have been waiting for my whole life, the motivation to be a better person. [...] I don't know how to feel about the fact that Omprakash has done a far better job at providing me a well-rounded education on the subject of international development, than 3 years at a world-renowned learning institution focused on the social sciences. That being said, I am quite glad I took it as I feel more accomplished finishing up this course than almost all my previous university courses.*

*Omprakash's EdGE course, Rethinking Global Development, was the breath of fresh air I needed. Week after week, module after module, I listened, learned, reflected, and made actionable commitments to myself and my community. I rediscovered my interest and passion for sustainable, empathetic, and localized approaches to development.*

*Learning about different perspectives from people of different backgrounds truly changed the way I view things and established the beginner mindset for me. I gained more understanding about my fellow classmates and the environment I am about to live for the next four years.*

*I'm a pre-med student interested in the human condition, and working towards understanding it through research, education, and advocacy. In simpler terms, a lot of the work I aspire to do (even in healthcare) is rooted in learning and working with people's stories – because that's one of the ways people have inherently bonded time and time again. Omprakash felt like the right 'next step', because it was an ethical avenue to ask the same questions of social impact that I'd been looking to answer on my own.*

**Omprakash is a registered 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit organization. Tax ID# 20-8655418  
2311 N. 45th St, Seattle WA 98103**



**[www.omprakash.org](http://www.omprakash.org)**